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Connecticut.
Local history. Vol. II

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HISTORICAL RECORD
OF
NAMEAUG ENGINE CO.,

TOGETHER WITH AN

ORIGINAL POEM,

Read at the Re-Union, February 22nd, 1871,

ALSO,

A LIST OF ITS MEMBERS,
FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO THE PRESENT TIME.



NEW LONDON:
STARR AND FARNHAM, PRINTERS.
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HISTORICAL RECORD OF NAMEAUG ENGINE COMPANY.

Your committee on the history of this Company approached their duties deeply impressed with the belief of their inability to do justice to the subject. The history of the Nameaug Company, extending over twenty years, has taken volumes to record. It will be the duty of your committee to cull from these records prominent incidents calculated to bring back remembrances of the good old times.

The first written records of this Company to be found are dated August 6th, 1849; but it is supposed by many, and some of the old inhabitants assert that the organization existed many years previous to this date. As reliable historians we will discard tradition and confine ourselves to the written records. At the above date the organization existed as Reliance No. 5. We will give in full the record of the annual election at that date.

STATION HOUSE,)
August 6th, 1849. }

Company met at 8 o'clock, P. M.; after collection of fines and dues, the Company proceeded (it being the annual meeting) to choice of officers, which resulted as follows, viz: F. L. ALLEN, Foreman, H. E. WEST, 1st Assistant, A. W. GALLAER, 2nd Assistant, C. G. SISTARE, Secretary. The following new members were then proposed and elected; William H. Barns, Jonathan Starr, Jr., William Read, Patrick Kelley. Miscellaneous business being in order, it was moved and seconded that the leading committee consist hereafter of ten, and that they hold their office one year; that they be taken from the head of the list of members, following every year in succession; passed. B. S. Beckwich, D. A. Pollock, Thomas Edgar, George E. Starr, John A. Comstock, were chosen suction hose committee. No further business. Company adjourned.

CHAS. G. SISTARE, Sec.

The ambitious spirits that composed Reliance No. 5, seem to have been dissatisfied with their machine, for we find that at a meeting on September 9th, 1849, the Company voted to have a new Engine, provided funds could be raised for the purpose, and that B. S. Beckwith and others be a committee to confer with eminent builders with regard to the expense of a first class machine. The Company having concluded to purchase a new machine at an expense of \$1500, offered their services to the city with the understanding that the city should furnish them a suitable building and hose. This was recommended by the Common Council to a city meeting and voted down. At the next meeting, October 12th, we find the Company voting F. L. Allen, the Foreman, a committee to hand over the keys of the house, and deliver over the public property entrusted to the Company, to the Chief Engineer. At the same meeting they resolved to continue the organization under the name of Independent Blues. We here give the names of those composing the company of Independent Blues, not on account of their connection with that organization, but because they were the fathers of the grand old Nameaug Company.

F. L. Allen,	S. Warren,	G. R. Warren,
H. E. West,	O. R. Dobbs,	F. Tracy,
A. W. Gallaer,	A. T. Burgess,	R. Chappell,
C. G. Sistare,	T. Edgar,	S. Smith,
W. O. Irish,	B. S. Beckwith,	N. Lanpheer,
J. T. Ames,	W. T. Strickland,	J. H. Allyn,
J. L. Hickox,	G. N. Woodward,	W. H. Barns,
W. H. Lewis,	H. Miller,	W. Reed,
G. D. Shepard,	H. P. Horton,	J. Starr, Jr.,
D. Pratt,	G. E. Starr,	P. Kelley,
F. A. Bassett,	F. H. Bacon,	J. L. Lyon,
C. S. Beckwith,	C. Ballser,	J. W. Cockran,
J. Haff,	W. Golden,	W. Dickinson,
W. B. Tate,	F. Preston,	H. Mather,
E. B. Chipman,	C. H. Miner,	W. Bartle,
J. A. Comstock,	C. M. Gorham,	J. Isbam,
J. S. Hadley,	W. H. Rowe,	W. N. Miner.
D. A. Pollock,	W. R. Crosby,	

We find at their next meeting, in Lawrence building, where nothing daunted by their treatment at the city meeting, they voted to have a first class Engine, and appointed a committee consisting of F. L. Allen, W. H. Barns and others to procure the same. At a subsequent meeting we find the name for the new machine, NAMEAUG, unanimously adopted. We next, at a meeting of the Company January 7th, 1850, find them making arrangements for their first annual grand ball to come off at the City Hotel; F. L. Allen, Wm. H. Barns, and Wm. B. Tate a committee to manage the same. At their next meeting they voted to leave their quarters in Lawrence building, and hire the building south of John Darrow's on Main Street, for their new engine house. At a meeting on April 18th, 1850, they concluded to drop the name of Independent Blues, and adopt that of NAMEAUG ENGINE COMPANY.

The Company having procured their new Engine, manufactured by Jeffers of Rhode Island, and taken possession of their new house, again offered their services to the city authorities, which services were accepted, and well they might be, for no such powerful machine or efficient company existed in the State at that time. On the 1st of May, 1850, the mournful duty devolved on the Company of depositing in the tomb the remains of one of their number, Frederic A. Bassett. This was the first inroad that death had made in the ranks of the Company; it was indeed a solemn occasion, for the deceased had been one of their most genial companions.

On the 4th of July of this year, the Company met at 9 A. M., to receive Hudson Engine No. 1, of Norwich, and after marching in procession through the principal streets, took their guests to the Federal Street House where they partook of a splendid collation; they separated about 12 P. M., (in the language of the record) and so ended the celebration of a day which unborn generations will celebrate. On October 7th, 1850, the Company held their annual meeting, when F. L. Allen was re-elected Foreman, with the same officers except Wm. H. Barns, Secretary, in place of Charles G. Sistare. On the 9th of the month the Company were called out to extinguish a fire at the house of Martin Coates in Prison Street; on November 26th the Company were called out and found Williams & Barns' store on Water Street on fire; put on two

streams and soon extinguished the flames. At a meeting December 2nd, William H. Lewis was elected Second Assistant in place of A. W. Gallear, who was about to remove to California.

On the 12th of February the Company held their annual ball which was a success, and the profits which were considerable were paid into the treasury. Being invited by the Mayor of Hartford to attend the celebration of the 4th of July, 1851, at that place, the Company met at the house at 3 1-2 A. M., and amid a tempest of thunder, rain and lightning, embarked on the steamer Cricket at 5 o'clock, A. M., sailed up the beautiful Connecticut and created quite a sensation in Hartford—were handsomely treated, arrived home and closed the celebration by a dance at the City Hotel. On the 2nd of September the Company received as guests the Rhode Island Company, showed them the usual civilities, marched them through the principal streets of the city amid a deluge of rain; next day took them to Groton, and then escorted them to the place of embarkation. The Nameaugs on this occasion turned out with white pants.

Annual meeting October 6th, 1851. F. L. Allen and the same officers re-elected. November 3rd Mr. Lewis 2nd Assistant leaving for California, Albert T. Burgess was elected in his place. February 2nd, 1852, the Company's annual ball passed off in the usual style, putting \$151 into the treasury. On the 5th of July came out in procession, Engine drawn by four black horses, and adorned with an immense eagle on the top of machine. Heard an oration from Hon. Anson Burlingame; adjourned to City Hotel to an elegant repast, and was disturbed in the midst of it by an alarm of fire, which proved to be a pile of wood on the Railroad bridge. The Nameaug was on the spot promptly.

At the fourth annual meeting October 4th, 1852, F. L. Allen was re-elected Foreman, with the same officers. On the 6th of December the Company were called out, the Union House being in flames in the upper part; after some hard work the flames were extinguished and the machine rolled home. December 23rd extinguished fire in Union store corner Bank and Golden streets. The Company's annual ball took place on the 3rd of February with the usual success. March 7th, called

out to fire on the Neck, when some cars, freight house, and ice houses were destroyed. Nameaug first stream on the fire as usual. Friday, July 22nd, went to New Haven by invitation of the authorities of that city; were handsomely received by the Sixes of New Haven, marched through the principal streets of the city, accompanied by Joe Green's band, kindly assisted by the Nail Factory band of Guilford; played for prize with the other engines present, but unfortunately burst leading hose. The next day, the records say, the Company marched steadily up Chapel street to the Depot, with the band at their head; there can be no doubt that the Company marched steadily up Chapel street, because the records are particular to say they did. Arriving at home the Company formed four deep and marched to the house.

Saturday, November 13th, 1852, Company called out to the funeral of their lamented comrade, Thomas Barns. Rolled the machine out in front of the house, appropriately draped in the habiliments of mourning; accompanied the remains of our deceased friend to the Cemetery; the many recollections of the noble and manly character of the deceased, was visibly impressed upon every face.

October 3rd, 1853, annual meeting, F. L. Allen was re-elected Foreman, and same officers. At this meeting the Company petitioned the city authorities for a new house. The Company turned out at 6 1-2 o'clock November 10th to fill gas-work cistern; this proved a serious business and did not pay for the powder. Nov. 18th, the old Methodist church on fire and the building destroyed; adjoining buildings saved. As usual, Nameaug first machine on the ground, and as usual, George E. Starr first man at the house. Mr. William Miner was badly burned at this fire. December 5th, 1853, Company met and voted that Joe Green was a brick. February 6th the annual ball again passed with its usual brilliancy, leaving a handsome balance for the treasury. March 6th. Company meet at this time at Beckwith's wharf on Water street, and continued to meet there until their new building was finished. May 7th, Company called out to fire in Burdick's stables in Bradley street; the building was destroyed but the adjoining property saved. August 15th, 1854, the Company rolled their machine to her new home in Masonic street. This invincible

Company now had the best house and the best machine in the State; the house was thrown open to the inspection of visitors who were all thoroughly impressed with its magnificence.

Sixth annual meeting October 2nd, 1853. F. L. Allen re-elected Foreman, with the same officers. About this time the Company inaugurated a series of dances in the new house, which were very successful. November 8th, 1854, called out at 3 A. M.; Union House on fire and totally destroyed, adjoining buildings saved. This was one of the worst fires that ever occurred in the city. The Foreman was a boarder in the house, and narrowly escaped with his wife and child, losing \$400 in money, gold watches and other property. John T. Ames a member of the Company, lost all his personal effects. December 28th, an alarm of fire; Culver's dry goods store and Dr. Perine's dentist shop were on fire, but it was easily subdued. January 1st, 1855; at a meeting of the Company at this date, the Secretary in behalf of the Company presented the Foreman with an elegant gold watch in lieu of the one lost at the Union House fire; this watch was furnished by one of the Company. February 3rd; again the annual ball was a grand success, putting into the treasury \$334. September 15th, the Company attended the funeral of Thomas W. Williams, 2nd, who was an honorary member.

October 1st, 1855, annual meeting for election of officers; F. L. Allen, Foreman, and same officers elected. December 12th, extinguished a fire in Stayner's cabinet shop in Golden street. January 10th, 1856—it being leap year—the ladies gave a grand dance, of which the Secretary at the time speaks in the most gushing terms. February 26th, went to Norwich to deposit the remains of George H. Webb a member of the Company, in their last resting place. March 21st, the annual ball came off in the usual brilliant style, resulting in a profit to the Company of over \$200. On May 15th the Company was ordered out for practice by the Chief Engineer, the feature of the occasion was that Nos. 2 and 3 took positions at the foot of the Flag Staff, and we leading a stream into each through a hundred feet of hose. The Chief desired all three Engines to play ten minutes and see if we could wash them, or in the classic language of the Secretary, they suck us. We played two and a half minutes and flooded them; limbered up and rolled to the

house amidst a blaze of glory. June 2nd; about this time the Company was very much troubled by the non-attendance of the Assistant Foreman, Henry E. West, and voted to write a note to him on the subject. Mr. West replied that his time lately had been taken up with duties connected with the Long Island Fur Company, but that as soon as the summer flight of geese had passed, he would resume his duties. The Company on the Secretary's reading the apology, at once unanimously voted to excuse him. August 4th; about this time there was great talk of going to Brooklyn; also of selling the machine to parties in Stafford; both projects fell through.

October 6th, 1856; annual meeting for election of officers; F. L. Allen, Foreman, as usual, Albert T. Burgess, 1st Assistant, George E. Starr, 2nd Assistant, Wm. H. Barns, Secretary, as usual. Your historian cannot let this occasion pass without recording that after having been a member of the Company from its infancy, his efficiency was at last recognized by his being placed No. 7 on the suction hose committee. November 18th; the Company at this date met at the house at 8 P. M., and in sundry conveyances rolled to the Pepuot House, and partook of a grand supper and oceans of wine; they then rolled to the house in their different conveyances, singing "we won't go home till morning." January 19th, the Company were called out at 7 A. M. to a fire in Holt's block; tremendously cold, with deep snow; got the machine through the snow with great difficulty, extinguished the fire, rolled home, and adjourned at the invitation of the Foreman, to City Hotel to breakfast. The grand ball again passed off, with the Germania Band; it was a splendid success, and added to the funds of the Company. April 6th, 1857; at this part of the history of the Nameaug Company, your historian feels very much relieved, for the Sub-Secretary at this meeting has offered his resignation, not but what Mr. Dickinson was a most excellent secretary, a first-rate fireman, and had the good of the Company at heart, but it has taken your historian an immense amount of time to scan his glowing and lengthy reports, all written with military precision. July 4th, 1857; met at the house at 7 1-2 A. M.; went through the Nameaug march drill, which is right four deep, until ten o'clock, when we fell into the procession, the machine beautifully adorned with a thousand silk flags;

marched through the different streets, were loaded with flowers from fair hands, fell out of the procession and embarked on the Liberty for the Pequot; had dinner and accompaniments, and marched home to the music of Douglass Cornet Band of Middletown, and dismissed.

October 5th, the annual meeting, F. L. Allen, Foreman, and same officers elected with the exception of the resignation of the Secretary, Mr. Barns, whose place was filled by F. C. Learned. December 14th: called out to a fire in Stoddard's block, in the store occupied by Mr. Ransom; worked some two hours, extinguished the flames and rolled home. January 4th, 1858. At this meeting the Long Island Fur Company presented to this Company a magnificent white owl of a very rare species. The bird was received, and a committee appointed to get up a vote of thanks to the Long Island Fur Company. January 31st, 1858, called out at two in the morning to a fire on the corner of Huntington and Hill streets; took water from the Federal street cistern, worked three hours, confined the fire to the original building; cold night, rolled home. At this fire William H. Pimer was run over by the machine coming down State street, but not dangerously hurt. April 17th, called out at 4 o'clock to a fire in the Griswold House, Groton; steamed across the river, got two streams on the building, which was partially destroyed, played till 9 o'clock, steamed to New London and rolled to the house.

October 4th, 1858, annual meeting; F. L. Allen and same officers re-elected. Arrangements were made at this meeting to receive the Providence Cadets and give them a hop at Lawrence Hall. December 9th, called at half past six, evening, to fire in Keeney's Rivet Factory; partially destroyed; after working two hours rolled home. February 3rd, called out at one in the morning to a fire in Frankeau's store on State street; played till five o'clock, when the fire being extinguished rolled home. The tenth annual ball came off at this time and netted the Company \$318,31. April 7th, called to fire in Bragaw's Ropewalk; played an hour and rolled home.

October 3rd, 1859, eleventh annual meeting; F. L. Allen was re-elected Foreman, and the same officers except the Secretary; instead of F. C. Learned, Ezra C. Smith was elected to that office. At this meeting Wm. N. Miner was appointed

Steward for one year, at a salary of \$80; we can all remember how well he did his duty. A prize hat was at this meeting presented to Amos A. Lamb, he having presented to the Company the names of seven active members. At this meeting the ex-secretary F. C. Learned, offered his resignation which was reluctantly accepted by the Company. December 5th, 1859, the solemn duty again devolved on the Company of accompanying to his last resting place one of their number, William W. Stark. After the ceremony the Company returned to the house and were dismissed. December 29th, the Company voted to have their pictures taken, which vote was carried into effect, and they may be seen in the house to this day. February 12th, 1860; called out to fire in Lewis Crandall's carpenter's shop which was consumed, but the adjoining property saved. May 29th, 1860, the first steam fire engine made its appearance in the city; it was brought for the inspection of the Nameaug Company, who at that time had steam fire engine on the brain.

October 1st 1860, twelfth annual meeting; F. L. Allen and same officers were re-elected. November 17th, Company met at 2 P. M., formed four deep and marched to Aborn Hall to have a target shoot. The procession was headed by the Norwich brass band, and after them the target bearer, H. E. West; the rear was brought up by Mr. William Miner, carrying the auger; every thing went lovely. In the evening the Company sat down to a splendid supper in Metropolitan Hotel. Monday morning, December 24th, called out to fire in City Hotel, flames bursting from the roof; played on the fire about two hours; the fire being then extinguished rolled home. January 26th, 1861, Company met this evening for the purpose of hearing Josephus R. Merriam explain the working of the spiritual engine, which he did in his usual lucid manner to the great satisfaction of members present. April 24th, 1861, Company came together to consider the propriety of discarding there old and time honored four deep drill, and voted to form themselves into a military company and study the latest tactics; our first efforts in drill and marching need the pen of a Dickinson to describe; words of command were introduced not in accordance with Hardy's tactics, such as *luff up in front, starboard, all hard a lee, &c.* August 8th, 1861, Company came out to re-

ceive Capt. Chapman's Company, 2nd Reg. Conn. Volunteers; after marching around the city with drum band, returned to house, had collation and adjourned. September 20th, Company met at 9 A. M., and proceeded to Lewis Grove in company with Nos. 1, 3, and 5; had a chowder and a good time generally; returned to the house escorted by No. 3, and after refreshments were dismissed. October 2nd, Company turned out at 2 P. M. to join in procession in honor of the arrival of the Norwich and New York line of steamboats, marched through the city, heard the oration by Esq. Goddard, returned to house at 7 P. M. and were dismissed.

October 7th, annual meeting; F. L. Allen and same officers re-elected. November 26th, Company came out at 1 P. M. for the purpose of making an excursion to Norwich; went up on the cars, marched through the principal streets, passed a short time at the Wauregan, rolled home on the cars, had a splendid collation at the City Hotel, adjourned to the house, and were visited by a distinguished stranger—Artemas Ward—elected him an honorary member. In return for the compliment Artemas made us a witty speech, and thanked us for electing him an honorary member, saying he supposed he deserved it. December 19th; at this meeting a sword, sash and belt were presented to Mr. George Potter, who was about to start for the war, he having been drill instructor to the Company. February 25th, 1862, Company called out at 11 1-2 P. M.; Fitch Dutton's woodshed on fire; shortly extinguished it and rolled home. February 25th, a portion of the Company took the machine to Groton and pumped out the steamer Jenny Lind. July 4th, 1862, Company turned out in procession, did some fine marching to the music of the Third Infantry Band, had a splendid collation at the Metropolitan, and adjourned to the house and dismissed. July 11th, Company called out to perform the mournful duty of depositing the remains of their late comrade, William O. Irish, in the tomb. September 4th, Company called out by cry of fire; rolled down to Water street, and there found a mob in the act of destroying the Hotel de Afrique occupied by Don Senor Antoine Lopez; no fire rolled home. Called out same evening to extinguish fire in above mentioned hotel; worked two hours and rolled home. Building supposed to have taken fire from spontaneous combustion,

it having been used as a depository of inflammable materials for a number of years.

October 6th, annual meeting, when F. L. Allen and the same officers were re-elected. October 16th; the Company this evening after considerable marching partook of a splendid supper at the residence of the Foreman, and returned to the house in a very pleasant mood and were dismissed. October 21st; this day the Company turned out to attend the funeral of Sergeant Thomas J. Mills, 14th Regt. Conn. Volunteers. May 4th, 1863; at this meeting Oscar F. Hewitt was elected an active member of the Company. August 10th, called out at 12 P. M. Boiler shop at Albertson & Dougless works on fire; the boiler shop was destroyed, the other property saved. August 19th; came out at 8 A. M., went on the cars to Scotch Cap and partook of a magnificent clam bake which was satisfactory to all concerned.

October 5th, annual meeting; F. L. Allen and same officers re-elected. November 26th, the Company and machine went down to Harbor's Mouth to pump out a schooner; the record says, they worked, and worked, and worked—landed at the steamboat dock at 12 M., very tired; got \$125 for the job. December 17th, called out to extinguish a fire on board a lumber schooner laying in the harbor, which we effectually did; the owner of the lumber presented \$50 to the Company. Sunday May 8th, called out at 5 P. M.; Depot on steamboat wharf on fire; worked for five hours, succeeded in saving the wharf, the building and contents being consumed; rolled home. Sunday May 22nd, called to duty, the old Baptist church on fire, which was totally consumed, also the adjoining house; by the efforts of the firemen the adjoining property was saved from destruction. July 4th, called out at 11 P. M., Chester's lumber yard being on fire; had heavy work for some hours, extinguished the fire and rolled home. August 24th, Company met at house at 9 A. M., and started for Scotch Cap on clam bake; enjoyed ourselves hugely and returned in the evening. September 4th, called out at 2 A. M., John Clark's cooper's shop on Water street on fire; after two or three hours severe labor succeeded in subduing the flames and rolled home. September 8th, turned out at 4 P. M. to receive and escort to their house Niagara, No. 1, on their return from Hartford. After marching

through the principal streets accompanied by the 14th Infantry Band, we escorted them to their house, and returned to our own and dismissed. September 14th, called out at 3 A. M. to fire on Water street in Prentiss & Learned's planing mill; played a couple of hours, extinguished the fire and rolled home. September 25th, called out to fire in C. D. Boss & Son's bakery in Water street; worked hard for three hours; the building was burned, but the adjoining property was saved.

Annual meeting October 3rd, 1864. The Company at this meeting received a communication from the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council thanking them for their great exertions on recent occasions; they took this means of tendering thanks through the Foreman of the Company. At this meeting F. L. Allen, who for some eighteen years had ably filled the position of Foreman determined to resign; proceeded to elect a Foreman when F. L. Allen was unanimously elected. Mr. Allen persisted in his determination to resign; another ballot was taken with the same result; he still persisting in his determination, Mr. Wm. H. Barns was then elected to the position, but positively declined. Mr. Burgess also declined the honor, and the Company adjourned, minus officers. October 26th the Company met for the purpose, as the records say, of fixing up things; they proceeded to ballot for a Foreman when F. L. Allen was elected. Mr. Allen not being present, a committee waited upon him and represented to him that if he persisted in his refusal the Company would disband; rather than allow this to occur he reluctantly accepted for another year; the announcement of his consenting was received with cheers. Albert T. Burgess was then elected 1st Assistant, George E. Starr 2d Assistant, Ezra C. Smith, Secretary, Edward T. Brown, Assistant Secretary. November 6th, called out to fire in S. Hobron's lumber yard, worked a couple of hours, extinguished the fire and rolled home. December 5th; Company met at the usual hour; the Foreman informed the Company that he had been elected Chief Engineer by the Common Council, but that he would leave the matter in the hands of the Company whether he should accept the new position or remain Foreman of the Company; a ballot being taken it was unanimous that he should retain his present position. December 19th, 1864, Company met at 7 1-2 P. M. A communication from the

Common Council was laid before the meeting insisting on the election of F. L. Allen as Chief Engineer; their decision was based on the fact that the other Companies persisted in their votes for F. L. Allen to that office. The Company under these circumstances accepted the resignation of the Foreman. Albert T. Burgess was then elected Foreman, Geo. E. Starr, 1st Assistant, Ezra C. Smith, 2nd Assistant, and Nelson Sisson as Secretary. January 14th, 1865, alarm of fire; store of F. L. Allen. Rolled to foot of the Parade, stretched hose, but the fire was extinguished with buckets; took up hose and rolled home.

March 6th, 1865, Company met at the usual hour. Mr. Sisson tendered his resignation as Secretary, and Daniel Deshon, Jr. was elected in his place. Mr. Burgess then tendered his resignation as Foreman of the Company, which was reluctantly accepted, and Mr. George E. Starr was elected Foreman, Mr. E. C. Smith, 1st Assistant, Mr. Julius T. Shepard, 2nd Assistant. April 3rd; a vote of thanks was passed at this meeting to F. L. Allen and Albert T. Burgess for their efficient services as Foremen of the Company. A vote of thanks was also passed to the Hon. Augustus Brandegee, for his *very* valuable present of a few volumes of the Congressional Globe. April 19th, Company turned out to take part in a procession in commemoration of the tragical death of President Abraham Lincoln. July 4th, Company turned out to take part in a grand procession; also to receive the Fountain Hose Company of Bridgeport; marched with our guests in the procession, were dismissed at Williams Park, returned to the house and partook with our guests of a fine collation; attended the boat race in the afternoon, placed the Fountain Hose Carriage on the cars, gave them three cheers and returned to the house and dismissed.

October 2nd, annual meeting for election of officers. Mr. George E. Starr was re-elected Foreman, but positively declined. Mr. Ezra C. Smith was then elected to the office, Mr. Charles Douglass 1st Assistant, Thomas Edgar 2nd Assistant, Daniel Deshon, Jr., Secretary. December 17th, Company called out to fire in the residence of D. S. Ruddock in Golden street; played vigorously on the fire which was subdued, considerable damage being done; rolled home and dismissed.

December 29th, called out at half past 1 A. M.; steamer Commonwealth on fire at her dock in Groton; went over on the Shore Line ferry boat, made every effort to subdue the fire without effect; saved a large amount of property on the dock, re-crossed the river, rolled home and dismissed. January 22nd, 1866, Company called out to fire in paint shop belonging to the Railroad Company; the fire was extinguished without much damage being done, rolled home and dismissed. At this fire Mr. Ezra Smith was badly hurt by a burning beam falling on him. January 25th, Company held their annual ball at Lawrence Hall, which passed off in the usual manner with pleasure and profit to the Company. February 8th, Company called out to fire in tobacco store house of Joseph Tinker; the building with its contents was entirely consumed. February 21st, called out to fire in cooper's shop on Lawrence's dock; worked for an hour and a half, took up and rolled home. May 26th, Company called out to receive the Allen Hook and Ladder apparatus, marched through the principal streets to the music of the Sabine band, partook of refreshments at the house of No. 1, marched home and were dismissed. June 2nd, called out to fire in the rigging loft of Williams & Haven; played some time on the fire with effect, took up and rolled home. June 19th, Company met at the house at 1 P. M., when his Honor, Mayor F. L. Allen presented a magnificent trumpet to Chief Engineer Burgess; this he did in a neat speech, which was feelingly responded to by Mr. Burgess. Company afterwards turned out to a department wash. August 17th, Company called out to fire in Bishop's lumber yard, foot of Parade, which proved to be a hard one; played on the fire seven hours; lumber and coal yard totally destroyed, adjoining property saved; took up and rolled home, pretty well exhausted from our long labor.

October 1st, 1866, annual election; Ezra C. Smith was unanimously re-elected Foreman, Charles Douglass 1st Assistant, Thomas Edgar 2d Assistant, Daniel Deshon, Jr., Secretary. October 29th, called out by fire at the stables of Bacon's Hotel; this fire spread with wonderful rapidity, consuming the stables of West & Smith and other adjacent wooden buildings; the City Hotel was saved by the superhuman exertions of the firemen; the fire at one time threatened to destroy half of the city.

January 3rd, 1867, called out to fire in Bradley street, in brick building owned by Mr. Bragaw; the building was badly damaged, but by the exertions of the firemen adjacent property was saved. February 6th, called out to fire in small building next to Mr. Badet's house on Main street. Small building destroyed, but by great exertions Mr. Badet's house saved. March 4th; at this meeting we received a communication from Chief Engineer, George Williams, that he had decided to give the Nameaug a new Steam Engine, and requested them to give him a name for the machine. The Company concluded to continue the name of Nameaug, and have the machine painted blue. March 26th, Masquerade ball came off; in the language of the secretary, it proved a success financially, sociably and entirely; music by the Sabine band. The ball put \$200 into the treasury of the Company.

June 30th, 1869, called out to attend the funeral of our lamented comrade, Carlos S. Beckwith, who lost his life by the swamping of a boat in Fisher's Island Sound. Companies 1 and 3 joined us in demonstrations of sorrow on this mournful occasion. July 21st, 1869; at this date the new Steam Engine Nameaug arrived; we paraded in honor of her arrival. During the parade we partook of a bounteous repast at the Court House provided by the Allen Hook and Ladder Company; took the new machine to foot of State street, where her powers were tested. She gave great satisfaction.

October 7th, annual meeting for election of officers; E. C. Smith was re-elected Foreman, but he peremptorily declined; after various attempts at an election of officers, the meeting adjourned. November 4th, Company met for election of officers; John A. Comstock was elected Foreman, Henry G. Osborn, 1st Assistant, Elisha Phillips, 2nd Assistant, George M. Miner, Secretary. March 13th, 1868, Company called out to fire in the Second Congregational Church; the fire had got too much headway before the engines arrived, and the building was entirely consumed; the adjoining building belonging to Mr. Bishop, was by the great exertions of the firemen saved with but little damage. August 18th, Company turned out at the call of Chief Engineer Williams for a general parade; proceeded to Lewis grove headed by the New London Brass Band, and partook of a game of ball, pig hunt, &c.; also an

excellent clam bake and accompaniments; returned to the house and after three cheers for the Chief Engineer, dismissed.

December 7th, Company met for election of officers, when John A. Comstock was re-elected Foreman, with the same officers. August 24th, 1869, Company met at house at 8 A. M., for the purpose of joining in a parade with the other Companies, under the command of Chief Engineer Thomas and his Assistants, to receive Hudson Engine Company of Hudson City; escorted them to Scotch Cap where we all partook of an old fashioned chowder; returned to town, escorted our visitors to the house where we had a splendid collation; eloquent speeches were made by His Honor, Mayor Allen, and Esq. Hewitt; accompanied the Hudson Company to the station; returned to the house and dismissed.

October 4th, 1869, annual meeting for election of officers: John A. Comstock re-elected Foreman, Henry G. Osborn 1st Assistant, Elisha Phillips 2nd Assistant, George M. Miner, Secretary, Charles Douglass Chairman of the Executive Committee, Cortland Douglass and Thomas Coy, Engineers. October 31st, called out to fire in Wilson's machine shop; took suction in the yard, played about twenty minutes, extinguished the fire, took up and rolled home. May 11th, 1870, Charles Douglass, head of the Executive Committee, and a few members met at the house (it being impossible, the notice being short, to call the Company together) to make arrangements to receive Penn Hose Company of Philadelphia, they being on their way to the Norwich Water Works celebration; on their arrival the members present met them at the Depot and escorted them to the house where a bountiful collation was prepared for them; having done justice to it, they adjourned to the hall above where they came to order, and his Honor, F. L. Allen was called to preside. Mayor Allen in a short speech welcomed them to the city, which was responded to by Chief Marshal Bonham. Speeches were made by O. F. Hewitt, and others; they then formed and marched to the Depot on their way to Norwich; as they left they gave three hearty cheers for their entertainers. July 11th; at this meeting Oscar F. Hewitt was elected an active member of the Company, having been until this time an honorary member. July 21st, called out to a fire at Brown's Cotton Gin Factory on Shaw's Neck; played on the

fire (it being a detached building) for about half an hour, prevented the fire from reaching the main building, took up hose and rolled home. August 12th; Company met this morning and proceeded to Scotch Cap for the purpose of Picnicking; they had various games such as foot races, sack races, target shooting with an auger; the festivities were graced by the presence of his Honor, Mayor Allen, Chief Engineer Burgess, *Hosca Jones, Esq.*, and other eminent individuals; a magnificent chowder was constructed by Cortland Douglass and Major Louis Beckwith, of which every body partook twice or three times, the Company having had lots of fun, chowder and lager bier. Returned to the city, marched to the house, voted they had a good time and dismissed.

October 3rd, annual meeting; John A. Comstock was re-elected Foreman, but peremptorily declined to serve; they proceeded to ballot and Mr. Comstock was again elected; he still persisted in his refusal; a vote of thanks was then tendered to Mr. Comstock for the able and efficient manner in which he had performed his duties as Foreman of the Company. Henry G. Osborn was then unanimously elected Foreman, Elisha Phillips 1st Assistant, but declined, saying he would not accept of any office short of Governor of the State. Mr. James N. Steward was then elected 1st Assistant, John H. Brown 2nd Assistant, George M. Miner, Secretary; Charles Douglass was then elected Chairman of the Executive Committee. At this meeting William N. Miner tendered his resignation as Steward, and Cortland Douglass was elected in his place. November 7th, a committee was appointed at this meeting to take into consideration the propriety of having a re-union of the Nameaug Company. November 17th, Company met for the purpose of accompanying the remains of their late comrade, Daniel Deshon to their last resting place; on this mournful occasion a large number of the old members were present. December 3rd, Company called out at midnight, Mrs. Starr's barn in Pearl street being on fire; played on the building a short time and extinguished the fire. At this fire Mr. James Sullivan a member of the Company, was seriously hurt by the Engine passing over him. December 15th; the Company at this meeting voted to have a fair, and appointed a committee to make arrangements for the same. Saturday evening, December 31st,

report of the fair, which was a great success. Aborn Hall was handsomely decorated with flags, the tables were arranged by the ladies, and covered with beautiful articles; the refreshment room under the charge of Mrs. Phillips, was a great success; the post office, with Miss Newbury, was also a prominent feature of the occasion. At the close of the fair each evening the company present tripped the light fantastic; it closed on the evening of the 31st, having run a week, and was profitable to the Company. Sunday morning, January 31st, 1871, Company called out and found Seth Morgan's carpenters shop and Charles E. Hewitt's paint shop in Bank street, on fire; played for some hours on the fire; the carpenter and paint shops were destroyed and part of the adjoining building, but we succeeded in saving the Bassett House, which was on fire on the roof. January 22nd, Company called out to fire on the corner of Prison and Bradley streets; rolled to the foot of the Parade, led off and put two streams on the fire; the building in which the fire originated was destroyed, and the adjoining one partially, but by the gallant exertions of the firemen the devouring element was prevented from spreading farther.

With the record of this fire your historian will close his labors. On this occasion the Nameaugs showed that they had lost none of their ancient fame; few of the old faces could be seen at the machine or on the hose, but the old Nameaug spirit was still there. The task of your historian has indeed been light, for who could travel over the twenty-five years record of such a Company, without a feeling of pride that for twenty years he had been a member of it. We cannot close without alluding once more to the familiar and oft repeated name in these records of F. L. Allen, who we may justly say was father of this noble Company. It must be a great gratification to the old members of the Company to meet him here on this occasion. And he may indeed be proud to have been the unanimous choice as Foreman of such a Company for nearly a quarter of a century.

JOHN GORDON, HISTORIAN.

THE FIREMAN'S GLORY.

BY OSCAR F. HEWITT.

Not on the crimson fields of war alone,
Where they who slay the best are brightest known,
Are truly great achievements found;
Not calm before the cannon's fiery gaze,
Nor central in the glare of battle blaze,
When thunderous batteries resound,
Are shown the shining traits that men possess.
True glory checks and not extends distress.

In scenes of common life, in thankless deeds,
In gentleness that sorrow gently heeds,
And hides the secret of its labor,
In saving human life from death by flames,
In living Hero lives with humble names,
And sacrificing for your neighbor,
All greatness lies, unknown to verse or prose,
Of volumes edged with guilt, and bound in Rose.

On wintry nights when wind and flames are snarling,
The fireman stakes his life for mother's darling,
And in the darkness does his duty.
He gently lays his lion paw on the child,
When smoke and gale and fire are fighting wild,
His only pay the smile of beauty.
Illustrious then, and truly blessed be they,
Who do a fireman's work from day to day.

Bright angels Jacob saw, attired in white,
Ascend, descend the ladder of light,
On embassies of love and faith;
We see the fireman brave in plain attire,
Ascend, descend the ladder at the fire,
On embassies of life or death.
Hail now! strong Knights? of faith in common life,
Hail! Heroes true in scenes of daily strife.

No nobler name, among the noble names,
 Of Engines, ever in the thick of flames,
 Than good old Nameaug appears;
 Her record red with fires and risks superb,
 Her destiny to save and not disturb,
 Her glory growing with her years.
 Her record fringed with freezing drops and sleet,
 Her record charred with fire and scorched with heat.

Her ready stream, a copious stream of life,
 To quench the giant flames and stop their strife,
 Her rope a cord of fellowly feeling,
 Her wheels are mercy's feet, so swift to come,
 When cries of "Fire" impel her from her home,
 And blazing frames and roofs are reeling.
 Her men, the leaders of the folorn hope,
 With ALLEX, like Leonidas, at the rope.

Who was its foremost in the midst of fire?
 If not mistaken 'twas our present Mayor,
 All mailed in sleet, and black with smoke,
 But battling on, contesting inch by inch,
 And never known from duty stern to flinch;
 And firemen rallied when he spoke,
 And by his side was COMSFOCK, BURGESS, STARR,
 And dozens more, distinguished near and far.

To-day we gather around the Nameaug hearth,
 Her children from all quarters of the earth,
 The chains of friendship still unbroken,
 For they were forged and welded in the blaze,
 And firmer linked, they grow with lapse of days,
 And bright with every friendly token.
 Now we take up our lengths of bursted hose,
 And in its house our rhyiming engine goes.

LIST OF PERSONS

WHO HAVE BEEN OR ARE MEMBERS OF NAMEAUG ENGINE COMPANY.

Frederic L. Allen,
 Henry E. West,
 A. W. Gallier,
 Charles G. Sistare,
 *William O. Irish,
 John T. Ames,
 James L. Hickox,
 *William H. Lewis,
 George D. Shepard,
 Dean Pratt,
 *Frederic A. Bassett,
 *Carlos S. Beckwith,
 Joel Haff,
 William B. Tate,
 *Edward B. Chipman,
 John A. Comstock,
 James L. Hadley,
 David A. Pollock,
 Samuel Warren,
 Oliver R. Dobbs,
 Albert T. Burgess,
 Thomas Edgar,
 Benjamin S. Beckwith,
 William T. Strickland,
 *George N. Woodward,
 *Henry Miller,
 *H. P. Horton,
 George E. Starr,
 *Frederic H. Bacon,
 *Charles Ballser,
 *William Golden,
 Franklin Preston,
 Charles H. Miner,
 Charles M. Gorham,
 William H. Rowe,
 William R. Crosby,
 G. R. Warren,
 Francis Tracy,
 Raymond Chappell,
 Simeon Smith,
 *Nathaniel Laupheer,
 Henry Stayner,
 John H. Allyn,
 William H. Barns,
 *William Reed,
 Jonathan Starr,
 Patrick Kelly,
 *John L. Lyon,
 John W. Cochran,
 William Dickinson,
 *H. Mather,
 William Bartle,
 John Isham,
 William N. Miner,
 John Coleman,
 George W. Meeker,
 Leonard W. Dart,
 George Fitch,
 Nathan S. Gardner,
 John H. Pomeroy,
 James M. Daniels,
 *Thomas Barns,
 George Francisco,
 George W. Coggeshall,

William Holt,
 John Baker,
 William McCarty,
 Stephen B. Conklin,
 George B. Winchamar,
 Benjamin F. Beckwith,
 James Miller,
 David B. Harris,
 George W. Middleton,
 H. W. Tomlinson,
 Frederick Daniels,
 *Robert F. Tate,
 Walstein Chester,
 *Courtland Starr,
 Andrew Crocas,
 James L. Collins,
 Benjamin Blydenburg,
 *Joseph A. Mower,
 James Bacon,
 Leroy S. Huntington,
 Warren Burrows,
 Silas Winters,
 Colby Morgan,
 *Thomas Morgan,
 Ellis Thayer,
 John Gordon,
 Thomas Kiley,
 Robert Green,
 *James L. Mason,
 Edward B. Rowe,
 William E. Albertson,
 Richard R. Latimer,
 Hezekiah Smith,
 William H. Snow,
 *Cheney Aldrich,
 *William W. Stark,
 John H. Lewis,
 John Dennison,
 Horace A. Bliss,
 William B. Cunningham,
 Charles Pickford,
 John C. Dagget,
 Orrin Wilbur,
 Gilbert G. Hickox,
 Albert Conant,
 Lewis Betts,
 John Richards,
 *John Bunce,
 James Miller,
 Ezra C. Smith,
 Henry Feldman,
 *John Ruckert,
 Elias F. Morgan,
 Mason N. Bassett,
 William H. Bill,
 *Charles Steinruck,
 Garvin G. Watson,
 William Hall,
 *Lodowick F. Mussey,
 James Dohnelly,
 Daniel Reynolds,
 Amos Gardner,
 Henry Berkenrood,
 *Conrad Goff,

James W. Root,
 Frank G. Avery,
 Charles Barns,
 Horace T. Crocker,
 George M. Miner,
 Henry L. Schleiter,
 L. A. Luther,
 George Huntley,
 Julius T. Shepard,
 *George S. Webb,
 Julius Chesebrough,
 George T. Shepard,
 *Alfred M. Goddard,
 Nathan F. Stewart,
 Denison Reynolds,
 George P. Bliss,
 Benjamin R. Tate,
 Charles W. Morton,
 Alexander Riderbock,
 *Orrin F. Jackson,
 James Kimball,
 Thomas W. Perkins,
 Courtland I. Shepard,
 Francis C. Learned,
 Nathaniel S. Chipman,
 William R. Arnold,
 Robert Dennis,
 Frank Nichols,
 Frederick S. Bidwell,
 Martin K. Cady,
 Morris W. Bacon,
 Robert A. Morgan,
 Gurdon Beckwith,
 William H. Steward,
 Allen F. Holmes,
 John Howarth,
 *Thos. W. Williams, 2nd,
 Frank Vincent,
 Sebastian D. Lawrence,
 Mortimer Edgerton,
 Henry Potter,
 Daniel B. Hempstead,
 Cady M. Rogers,
 *Frederick A. Beckwith,
 *Thomas J. Cordner,
 Charles D. Hutchings,
 Orrin F. Smith,
 William Burbeck,
 Eldridge P. Beckwith,
 *Henry Lee,
 *Daniel P. Smith,
 Charles H. Smith,
 Nelson M. Pearce,
 Charles A. Lewis,
 L. Allen Tate,
 Crandall S. Beckwith,
 John L. Keeney,
 A. D. Porter,
 William H. Griggs,
 *William Babcock,
 Charles W. Butler,
 Asa Smith,
 *Daniel Deshon,
 William W. Harris,

Henry K. Nichols,
 Richard R. Stark,
 Andrew Pinney,
 Edward Allender,
 Charles M. Johnson,
 Isaac T. Comstock,
 Henry R. Bond,
 William S. Ashford,
 Harris T. Fitch,
 E. L. Moore,
 Amos A. Lamb,
 Joseph Dickerson,
 Frederic W. Stein,
 Sherwood B. Ransom,
 William H. Pimer,
 Henry E. Shepard,
 *B. E. Schwatzer,
 *John Rhein,
 David S. Ruddock,
 S. W. Franklin,
 Oliver S. Cooper,
 *Charles Stark,
 Charles J. Hicks,
 William Lester,
 Robert Smith,
 William Spittle,
 Richard B. Fingar,
 William H. Lepard,
 Henry G. Osborn,
 *P. J. Quinn,
 J. Carson,
 William Bailey,
 *Samuel Wood,
 James B. Lyman, Jr.,
 James J. Lewis,
 Addison White,
 Albert B. Lamb,
 John Cook,
 William Squires,
 George Berkley,
 Henry Stoll,
 *George W. Bowditch,
 Joseph Kopp,
 Henry M. Lester,
 Edwin C. Chapman,
 Elisha Douglass,
 Edward T. Brown,
 John Elkington,
 George W. Crandall,
 E. F. Billings,
 Hugh McCullough,
 J. R. Hammond,
 *R. W. Saunders,
 Chester K. Bishop,
 A. S. Smith,
 Frank Chappell,
 Courtland P. Smith,
 Lucius C. Hovey,
 Lewis M. Stillman,
 George W. Crocker,
 Frederic W. Barnes,
 George H. Smith,
 Otis Dimmock,
 John Ham,
 Hezekiah Allen,
 Joseph Tinker,
 William E. Chester,
 *William F. Stoddard,
 Frederic H. Parmelee,
 Joseph Conner,
 D. Mortimer Lee,

*Dead.

James Elkington,
 Cyrus G. Beckwith,
 George S. Collum,
 George Lax,
 William Baldwin,
 Hiram F. Chappell,
 William K. Fox,
 Albert Leeds,
 John Spittle,
 Martin Lester,
 William H. Sizer,
 Nathaniel Shone,
 Charles W. Higgins,
 William B. Brown,
 George W. Roome,
 *Artemas Ward,
 Horace Chipman,
 Robert Young,
 Jesse Williams,
 Nelson Sisson,
 Charles Douglass,
 Wendall Kopp,
 Benjamin F. Lamb,
 Frank Fowler,
 Charles H. Warren,
 Leonard Fowler,
 Christopher H. Fox,
 John H. Brown,
 James Stebbins,
 E. B. Page,
 Oscar F. Hewitt,
 Frederic W. Miner,
 Theodore E. Beach,
 Oliver D. Cone,
 Edwin Harper,
 Nathaniel R. Wolfe,
 Timothy Elkington,
 Ansel Baker,
 James N. Steward,
 Thomas W. Coy,
 Elisha Phillips,
 Frank C. Jeffrey,
 Conrad Schleiter,
 William H. H. Morgan,
 N. L. Williams,
 Thomas W. Potter,
 B. Herbert Fox,
 George Havens,
 James L. Eggleston,
 Joseph A. Stocking,
 William Dimmock,
 John R. Miller,
 Edward Barnes,
 Frank C. W. Rogers,
 John Schaffer,
 David H. Camp,
 F. B. Getchel,
 Samuel Hazard,
 John Kopp,
 *Alexander Tillinghast,
 *John R. Fitch,
 Charles Potter,
 Frank Schaffer,
 William H. Seaplin,
 James McMoran,
 Nathaniel R. Bolles,
 Anson R. Beebe,
 John Howard,
 Lodowick Leeds,
 William B. Reeves,
 William E. Nott,

George W. Bowser,
 George A. Cornell,
 John H. Clark,
 J. H. Preston,
 Charles H. Burrows,
 Henry M. Faruham,
 *Israel J. Rogers,
 *Samuel Spittle,
 Horace Douglass,
 Guy S. Morgan,
 George A. Martin,
 James Stoddard,
 Amos E. Barbour,
 James Fitch,
 C. A. Maynard,
 Asa O. Goddard,
 Gilbert Keency,
 Courtland Douglass,
 Daniel Frazier,
 Mark W. Smith,
 Charles E. Smith,
 Allen B. Champlin,
 Albert A. Pearce,
 William Douglass,
 Abbott L. Douglass,
 Wilbur Gray,
 Eben E. Avery,
 George Coe,
 John Brewster,
 Charles Bunnell,
 William E. Sisson,
 Luther A. Ladd,
 Thomas McGuire,
 Wallace A. Beckwith,
 Isaac Kenison,
 John C. Bliss,
 Jeremiah M. Sullivan,
 John R. Bare,
 David Roberts,
 Thomas Carter,
 George M. Champlin,
 Daniel Corcy,
 Elisha M. Crosby,
 George W. Curtis,
 Robert H. Rust,
 Alexander R. Cochran,
 Louis Beckwith,
 George Byers,
 Albert Elmendorf,
 Charles Nichols,
 Benjamin P. Watrous,
 Isaac W. Thompson,
 Charles Ockford,
 William H. Guest,
 Andrew Elwell, Jr.,
 George T. Rockwell,
 William H. Kenyon,
 Artemas D. Lester,
 Alfred W. Beers,
 Daniel B. Denison,
 William Gilfillan,
 James Hutchison,
 Daniel Gilfillan,
 Edward A. Colby,
 Ferdinand Douglass,
 James Crosby,
 James Sullivan,
 Walter Plumley,
 Herbert Coy.

